

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

DRC-01 /124 W

----- 017323

R 181710Z JAN 74R

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8348

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E Q L T I A L COPENHAGEN 0165

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ELAB,DA

SUBJ: COMMUNIST HEAD OF SEAMEN'S UNION UNDER FIRE

1. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DANISH SEAMEN'S UNION, PREBEN MOLLER HANSEN, A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND POPITBURO OF THE DANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (DKP), HAS RECENTLY COME UNDER ATTACK FOR MISADMINISTRATION OF HIS UNION'S FUNDS. HIS TROUBLES BEGAN WITH A PRESS EXPOSE THAT MOLLER HANSEN HAD PURCHASED A PROPERTY IN COPENHAGEN FROM A TAXADOGE CORPORATION ESTABLISHED BY

MOGENS OLISTRUP, THE CONTROVERSIAL CHAIRMAN OF THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY, WHO IS HIMSELF UNDER INDICTMENT FOR TAX EVASION. MOLLER HANSEN DENIED KNOWING THAT THE PURCHASE WAS MADE FROM A FIRM WITH CONNECTIONS TO OLISTRUP, BUT SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS MADE THIS APPEAR UNLIKELY. MOREOVER, MOLLER HANSEN'S ACTION APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN WITHOUT THE APPROPRIATE APPROVAL OF HIS UNION'S EXECUTIVE BOARD. MOLLER HANSEN HAS ALSO BEEN CHARGED
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WITH HAVING IRREGULARLY EMPLOYED UNION MEMBERS AT THE

UNION'S TRAINING SCHOOL WHILE THEY WERE COLLECTING
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.

2. THE SEAMEN'S UNION IS POLITICALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN
THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND COMMUNISTS, WITH THE LATTER
ENJOYING A ONE-SEAT MAJORITY ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.
AT THE UNION'S LAST CONGRESS A DETERMINED EFFORT TO
ELECT A SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY DID NOT SUCCEED AND
MOLLER HANSEN RETAINED HIS UNIQUE POSITION AS THE ONLY
COMMUNIST CHAIRMAN OF A MAJOR TRADE UNION IN DENMARK.

3. AT THE LAST CONGRESS OF THE DKP, MOTLER HANSEN
RECEIVED THE SECOND HIGHEST NUMBER OF VOTES FOR ELECTION
TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, BEING SURPASSED ONLY BY PARTY
CHAIRMAN, KNUD JESPERSEN. HIS SUBSEQUENT CAMPAIGN FOR
ELECTION TO PARLIAMENT WAS, HOWEVER, UNSUCCESSFUL.
DESPITE THIS INFLUENTIAL POSITION IN THE PARTY, MOLLER
HANSEN'S TRAFFICKING WITH GLISRUP HAS BEEN VIGOROUSLY
CONDEMNED BY PARTY MEMBERS INCLUDING NEWLY ELECTEE MP
HANNE REINTOFT. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S MEETING
JAN 19-20 TO DECIDE WHETHER MOLLER HANSEN SHOULD BE
EXCLUDED.

4. MOLLER HANSEN IS ALSO CURRENTLY UNDER ATTACK WITHIN
HIS UNION. ONE LOCAL DISTRICT HAS PUBLICLY CALLED
FOR HIS REMOVAL AS CHAIRMAN. PROSPECTS FOR ANY SUCH
ACTION BEFORE THE UNION CONGRESS IN NOVEMBER ARE,
HOWEVER, NOT PROMISING.

5. COMMENT. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE
DANISH TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO) HAVE LONG BEEN
DEEPLY WORRIED ABOUT THE GROWING INFLUENCE OF COMMUNIST
AND SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY (SF) INFLUENCE WITHIN
MIDDLE LEVEL TRADE UNION RANKS. WHILE IN GOVERNMENT,
HOWEVER, THE PARTY'S DEPENDENCE ON SF PARLIAMENTARY
SUPPORT PREVENTED ANY DIRECT POLITICAL COUNTER
OFFENSIVE. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, NOW IN

OPPOSITION, ARE LAUNCHING A MAJOR EFFORT TO REGAIN LOST
GROUND. THE MOLLER HANSEN EPISODE HAS PROVIDED A READY-
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MADE CASE FOR THEIR USE.
DUNNIGAN

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